

# National Reentry Landscape

Prepared for the NIC/BOP Reentry Symposium

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US Department of Justice

September 9, 2015

Reentry Council  
Inaugural Meeting - January 5, 2011

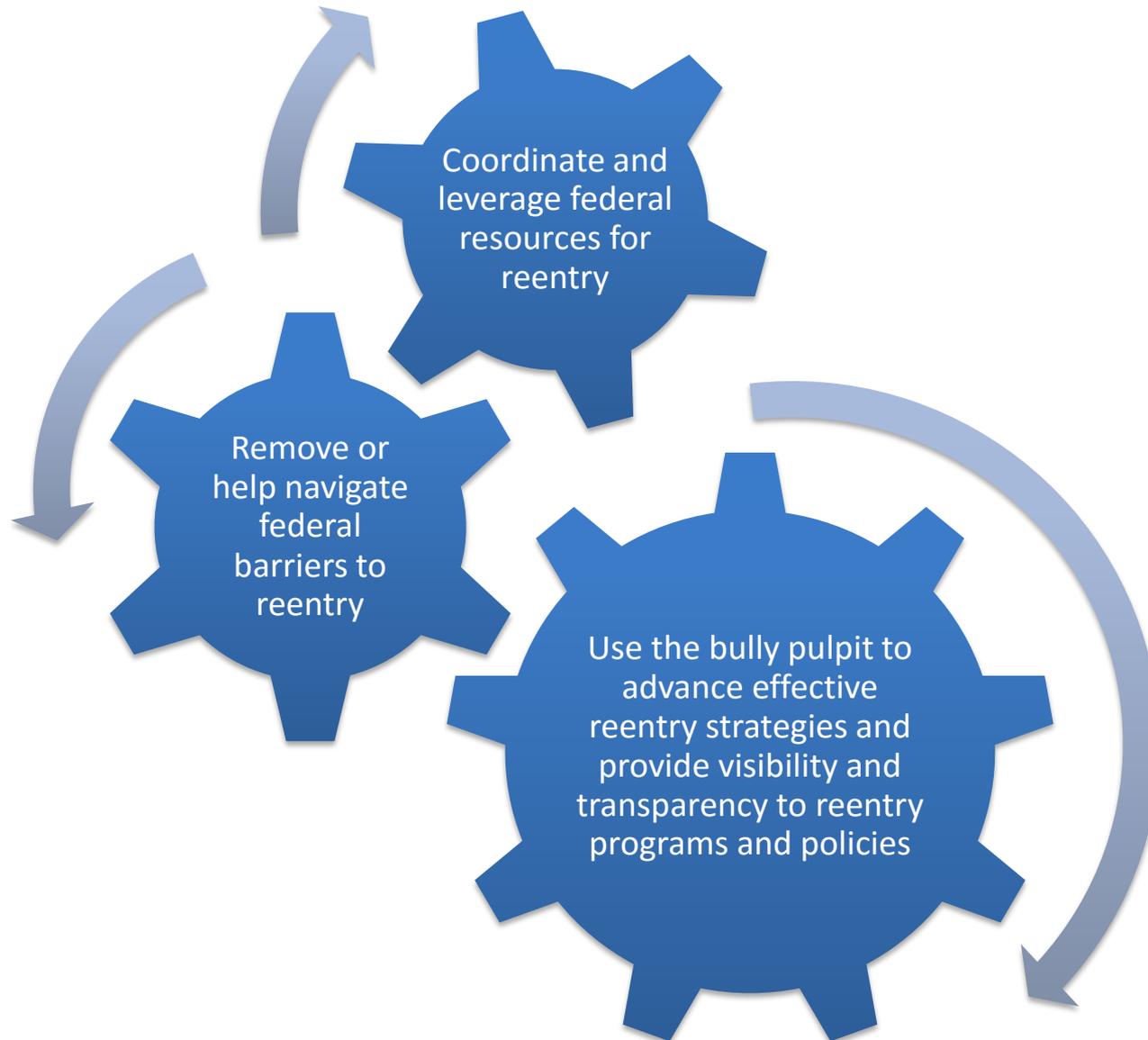


## Reentry Council Mission Statement

To support the Administration's efforts in advancing public safety and well-being through enhanced communication, coordination, and collaboration across Federal agency initiatives that:

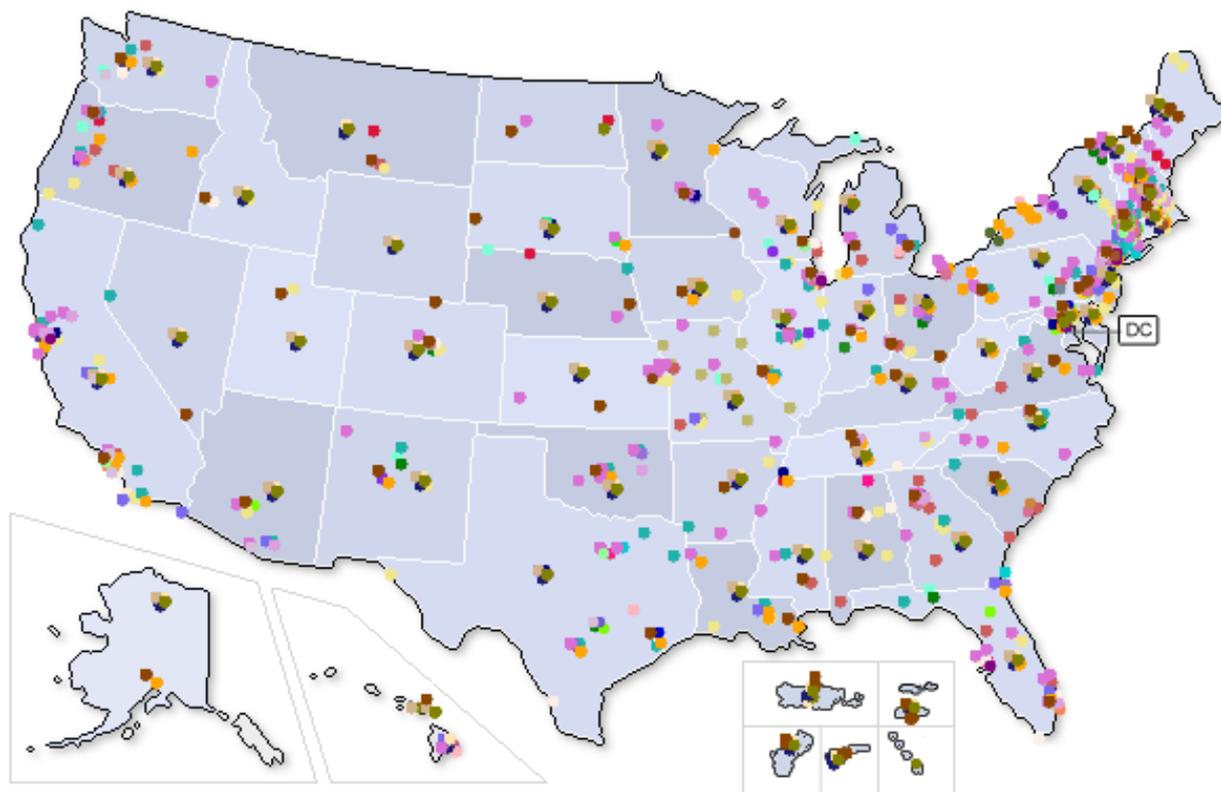
1. Make communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization;
2. Assist those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive citizens; and
3. Save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.

## What Can the Reentry Council Do To Make an Impact?



The Reentry Council is working to  
Coordinate and Leverage Resources

National Reentry  
Resource  
Center  
inventoried and  
mapped major  
federal reentry  
resources  
going to states  
and localities



[www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org)

# Using the Bully Pulpit to Advance Effective Strategies



# What are Myth Busters?

Each sheet addresses a common 'myth' about reentry, ranging from federal financial aid to employment issues.

It lists facts debunking the myth, answering common misperceptions...

...describes the details of each, including explanations of different state policies...

...and lists important suggestions and recommendations for readers.

At the end of the form, each sheet lists useful online resources.

REENTRY MYTH BUSTER!  
A Product of the National Immigration Reentry Council

On Child Support

**MYTH:** Non-custodial parents who are incarcerated cannot have their child support orders reduced.

**FACT:** Half of all states have formalized processes for reducing child support orders during incarceration. Three-quarters of all states have laws that permit incarcerated parents to obtain a reduced or suspended support order.

Providing child support is an important responsibility for parents and non-custodial parents. Child support amount levels are set by guidelines that take into account parents' ability to pay. Child support orders are often associated with incarceration because parents who are incarcerated are unable to pay child support. However, many states have established processes for reviewing, adjusting, pausing, or suspending child support arrangements in the range of \$45,000 to \$20,000.

More than half of the states have the ability to suspend orders during periods of incarceration and 25 states have implemented formalized processes or procedures to reduce or suspend child support orders. However, the process to request a modification of child support orders varies by state. In many states, incarcerated parents have to file a request for a review of their order before any adjustments or modifications can be made.

Examples of state processes for modifying orders for incarcerated parents include:

- Orders set based on assets not imposed, income during incarceration. [11]
- If formal child support agency established that a non-custodial parent is incarcerated, it must review the order to determine whether it is appropriate under the guidelines and may request a modification if warranted. [18]
- Child support orders may be modified to include three modification requests, and suspend enforcement. After release, a court hearing reviews order. [14]
- Orders are not reduced to zero if the parent is unable to make payments, regardless of how long the parent is in jail. No income reported and earns less than \$200/month. [20]

For More Information:  
Reentry Facts  
<http://www.reentryfacts.org>  
State Child Support Agency and State Department of Social Services  
<http://www.nccsl.org>  
Working with Incarcerated and Released Parents  
<http://www.nccsl.org>  
National Child Support Enforcement Center  
<http://www.nccsl.org>

**What is a REENTRY MYTH BUSTER?**

This myth buster is one in a series of fact sheets intended to clarify existing federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. Each year, more than 700,000 individuals are released from state and federal prisons. Whether they return to jail or find a job, these reentry individuals and their families face many challenges. More than 10 million people are currently in jail or prison and nearly 10 million are released each year.

Because reentry intersects with health and housing, education and employment, family, faith, and community well-being, many federal agencies are focusing on initiatives for the reentry population. Under the auspices of the cabinet-level Interagency Reentry Council, federal agencies are working together to enhance community safety and well-being, assist those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive citizens, and minimize recidivism by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.

For more information about the Reentry Council, go to [www.reentryfacts.org](http://www.reentryfacts.org) or [www.reentryfacts.org](http://www.reentryfacts.org).

## What topics are covered?

**CHILD  
SUPPORT****FED'L  
BONDING  
PROGRAMS****SOCIAL  
SECURITY  
BENEFITS****PARENTAL  
RIGHTS****TANF  
BENEFITS****FED'L  
STUDENT  
FINANCIAL  
AID****SNAP  
BENEFITS****HIRING /  
CRIMINAL  
RECORDS****FED'L  
HIRING  
POLICIES****MEDICAID  
ELIGIBILITY****VOTING  
RIGHTS****VETERANS  
BENEFITS****PUBLIC  
HOUSING****WORK  
OPPTY TAX  
CREDIT****JUVENILE  
RECORDS**

**myth**

Individuals who have been convicted of a crime are “banned” from public housing.

**fact**

Public Housing Authorities have great discretion in determining their admissions and occupancy policies for exoffenders. While PHAs can choose to ban ex-offenders from participating in public housing and Section 8 programs, it is not HUD policy to do so. In fact, in many circumstances, formerly incarcerated people should not be denied access.

*“As President Obama recently made clear, this is an Administration that believes in the importance of second chances – that people who have paid their debt to society deserve the opportunity to become productive citizens and caring parents, to set the past aside and embrace the future. Part of that support means helping ex-offenders gain access to one of the most fundamental building blocks of a stable life – a place to live.”*

**Letter from Secretary Shaun Donovan and Assistant Secretary Sandra B. Henriquez to public housing authority directors, June 17, 2011.**



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-0001

THE SECRETARY

June 17, 2011

Dear PHA Executive Director:

Each year, more than half a million people are released from prisons in the United States, and an additional seven million are released from jails. Research shows that ex-offenders who do not find stable housing in the community are more likely to recidivate than those who do, yet people returning to their communities from prison often face significant barriers to obtaining housing. Studies have also found that the majority of people released from prison intend to return to their families, many of whom live in public or other subsidized housing.

The Department is engaged in several initiatives that seek a balance between allowing ex-offenders to reunite with families that live in HUD subsidized housing, and ensuring the safety of all residents of its programs. To that end, we would like to remind you of the discretion given to public housing agencies (PHAs) when considering housing people leaving the criminal justice system. The Department encourages you to allow ex-offenders to rejoin their families in the Public Housing or Housing Choice Voucher programs, when appropriate.

Within HUD statute and regulations, there are only two explicit bans on occupancy based on criminal activity. PHAs must establish a lifetime ban on admission to the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs for:

1. Individuals found to have manufactured or produced methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing (24 CFR 960.204, 24 CFR 982.553); and
2. Sex offenders subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program (24 CFR 960.204, 24 CFR 982.553).

Additionally, PHAs must establish standards that prohibit admission if the PHA determines that any household member is currently engaged in illegal use of a drug, or the PHA has reasonable cause to believe that a household member's illegal drug use, alcohol use, or pattern of drug or alcohol abuse may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents. PHAs must also prohibit admission of an applicant for 3 years from the date of eviction if a household member has been evicted from federally assisted housing for drug-related criminal activity. In this case, however, PHAs retain discretion to consider the circumstances and may admit households if the PHA determines that the evicted household member who engaged in drug-related criminal activity has successfully completed a supervised drug rehabilitation program, including those supervised by drug courts, or that the circumstances leading to eviction no longer exist (24 CFR 960.204, 24 CFR 966.4, 24 CFR 982.553).

## The Reentry Council working to Address Barriers to Reentry



Public Housing



Barriers to  
Employment/Educ



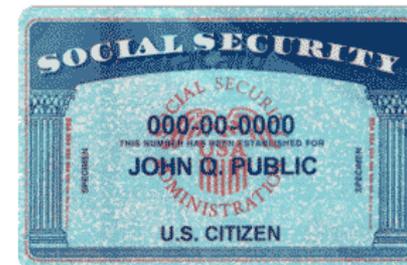
Veterans

**46,000**

Collateral  
Consequences



Health



Access to Benefits



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

April 18, 2011

Dear Attorney General :

Each year, more than 700,000 people are released from state and federal prisons. Another nine million cycle through local jails. Failed reentry policies impose high social and economic costs including increased crime, increased victimization, increased family distress, and increased pressure on already-strained state and municipal budgets. Because reentry policies intersect with policies related to health, housing, education, employment, family, faith, and community well-being, many federal agencies dedicate significant resources to addressing these policy challenges.

In January, the Obama Administration convened a Cabinet-level Reentry Council to focus on prisoner reentry policies throughout the federal government. This Reentry Council represents a significant federal commitment to coordinate our efforts and develop effective policies to address reentry challenges. Federal agencies are working together to promote safer and healthier communities, assist individuals being released from prisons and jails become productive citizens, and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration. Collaboration among our agencies is already well underway and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues in other states to improve public safety.

The Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice has funded a comprehensive National Study on the Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions conducted by the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section (available at: <http://isrweb.isr.temple.edu/projects/acproject>). This study has catalogued over 38,000 statutes that impose collateral consequences on people convicted of crimes – an average of almost 700 per state or territory.

Collateral consequence statutes and policies impose additional burdens on people who have served their sentences, including denial of employment and housing opportunities, without increasing public safety in essential ways. Some of those restrictions, such as the prohibition on gun possession, serve meaningful public safety goals.

*“Public safety requires us to carefully tailor laws and policies to genuine risks while reducing or eliminating those that impede successful reentry without community benefit. In evaluating the efficacy of your state’s collateral consequences, you have the opportunity to ease the burden on families and communities in your state by ensuring that people who have paid their debt to society are able to live and work productively.”*

**Letter from Attorney General Eric  
Holder to State Attorneys  
General on April 18, 2011**

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Eric Holder".

## Reducing Collateral Consequences

- AG Holder Letter to State AGs
- Federal Review (Reentry Council Agencies)
- DOJ's Forward-Looking Policy
- Second Chance Fellow
- Grants, TA and Resource Development

## Reducing Employment Barriers

- ✓ 5 Employment-related Myth Busters
- ✓ EEOC Updated Guidance
- ✓ DOL Guidance and Directive
- ✓ OPM Best Practices Memo
- ✓ FTC Enforcement Action
- ✓ SBA MicroLoan Proposal
- ✓ New EEOC/FTC Resources “What Every Employer/Job Seeker Should Know”

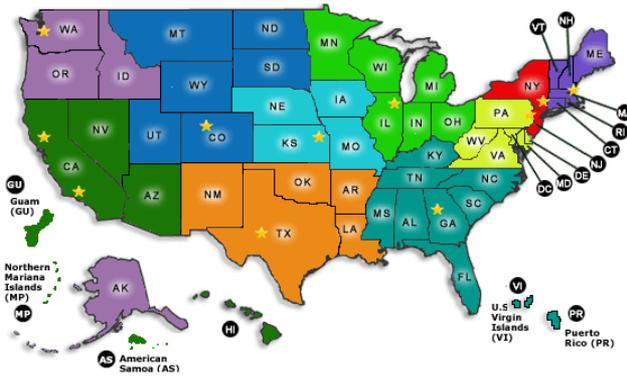
# Enhancing Educational Opportunities

- ✓ RAND Correctional Education Project findings
- ✓ DoE Pell Experiment
- ✓ Opening Doors to College and Careers through Career and Technical Education: BJA and DoE funding opportunities
- ✓ Two ED-initiated Reentry Mythbusters on technology access in prisons and juvenile justice facilities

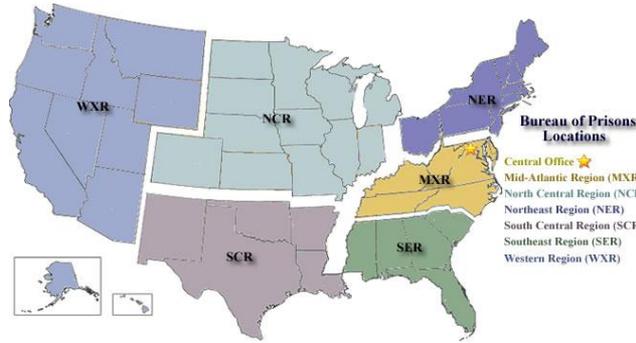
## Access to Benefits

- ✓ Administrative Policy Changes - VA
- ✓ 10 benefits-related MythBusters
  - Medicaid suspension vs termination
  - TANF, Social Security, VA, SNAP benefits
  - Student financial aid
- ✓ Social Security Reentry Webpage - <http://www.ssa.gov/reentry/>
- ✓ Health Reform Opportunity!!

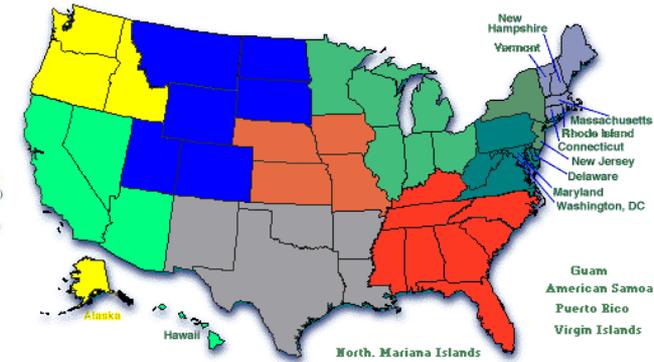
## Outreach to Federal Networks in the Field



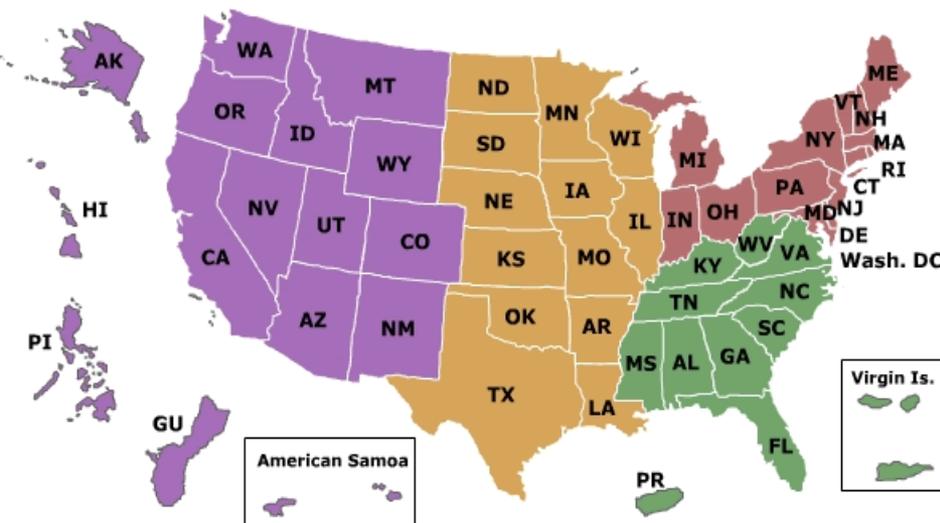
HUD



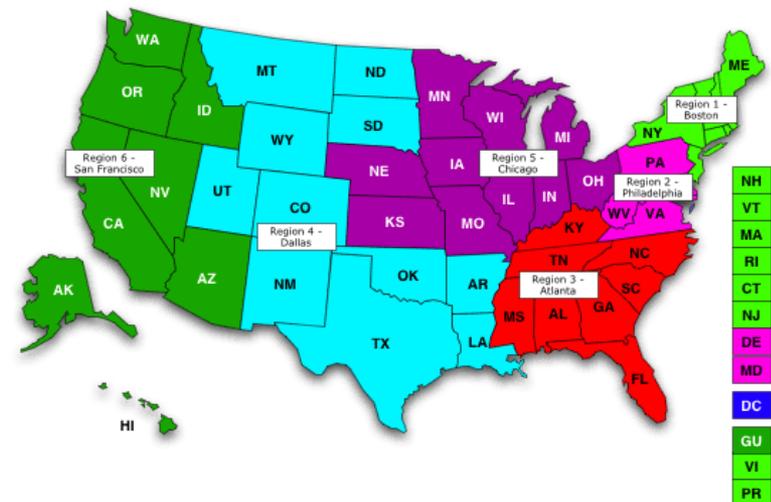
FBOP



Social Security



Veterans Benefits



DOL-ETA

# Reentry Council Links

## Reentry Council Website

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/firc/>

## Reentry Council Overview/One-Pager

[http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/FIRC\\_Overview.pdf](http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/FIRC_Overview.pdf)

## Reentry MythBusters

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/mythbusters/>

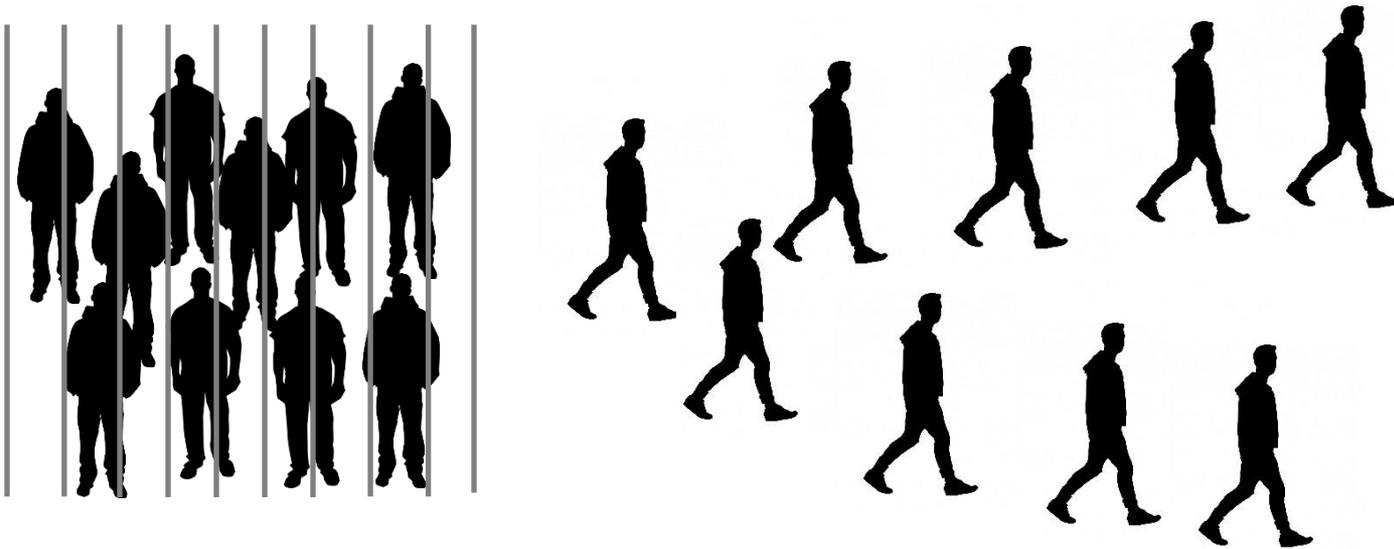
## Reentry Snapshots

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/firc/snapshots/>

## Additional Policy Documents on the Reentry Council Website

### Collateral Consequences

- [Memorandum to Heads of Department of Justice Components and United States Attorneys](#) (Office of AG)
- [Attorney General Holder's Letter on Collateral Consequences](#) (DOJ)
- [National Inventory on the Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions](#) (DOJ)

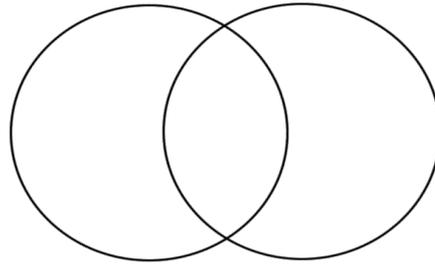


More than 95% of the 2 million individuals incarcerated in state, local, and federal correctional facilities will return home.

Investing in reentry reduces recidivism, saves taxpayer dollars, and makes our communities safer.



Demonstration



Co-occurring



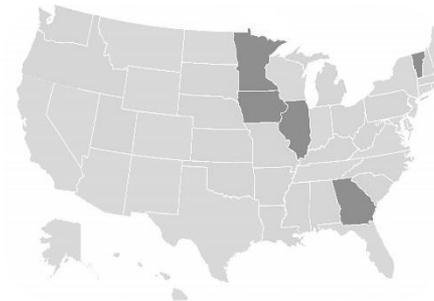
Mentoring



Technology  
Career



Family-based



Statewide

# National Reentry Resource Center

## NRRC Publications

### JUSTICE CENTER PUBLICATIONS



### The Reentry of Adults Convicted of Sexual Offenses: A National Survey of Reentry Professionals

FEBRUARY 26, 2015

The survey findings reveal variability regarding the extent to which respondents' beliefs about various sex offender-related matters align with current research.

### Risk Assessment Instruments Validated and Implemented in Correctional Settings in the United States

JULY 2, 2014

This report is designed to provide foundational knowledge and a working framework of risk assessment instruments for criminal justice and social service agencies, practitioners, and policymakers.



### Reducing Recidivism: States Deliver Results

JUNE 12, 2014

In "Reducing Recidivism: States Deliver Results," the National Reentry Resource Center highlights eight states that have achieved reductions in statewide recidivism in recent years

## NRRC Webinars and Video

### WEBINARS



### Responding to the Second Chance Act Technology-Based Career Training Program

APRIL 23, 2015

In this webinar, officials from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance explain the grant program and application process. These grants will provide up to \$750,000 to states, units of local government, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes for a 36-month project period. The goal of this program is to increase the post-release employability of individuals through technology-based career training.



### Money Matters and Reentry: An Overview of a Financial Literacy Toolkit for Practitioners

APRIL 14, 2015

During this webinar, experts provide an overview of an easy-to-use toolkit designed to help organizations improve the financial literacy of clients who are identified as low-income or vulnerable, including those who are returning to the community from incarceration.



### Risk Need Responsivity 101: A Primer for SCA and JMHP Grant Recipients

MARCH 31, 2015

### VIDEOS



### Criminal Stigma, Race, Gender, and Employment: An Expanded Assessment of the Consequences of Imprisonment for Employment

JULY 31, 2014

This video from the National Institute of Justice features the findings of Dr. Scott Decker, Director of the Arizona State University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, who studied the impact of having criminal record on finding employment.



### NGA Webcast—Strategies for Managing Prison Health Care Spending

JANUARY 3, 2014

Health care spending in the United States has been increasing steadily over the past decade, and state corrections departments have seen a particularly sharp rise in health care-related costs.

### Second Chance Act: What have we learned about reentry programs so far?

SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

This video by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) features an interview with leading researcher Ron D'Amico of Social Policy Research Associates. He discusses data indicating that offender reentry remains a national

# National Reentry Resource Center

## 2014 Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program & Second Chance Act Conferences



CSG Justice Center · 2014 JMHP/SCA...

- 2014 JMHP/SCA Conference Highlights 05:01
- 2014 JMHP Conference - Welcome and Introductions 08:06
- 2014 JMHP Conference - Plenary: Targeting the Right People for the Right Interventions 56:29
- 2014 JMHP Conference - Understanding Risk



**Click here to view the 2014 Agendas**



**Click for photo gallery**

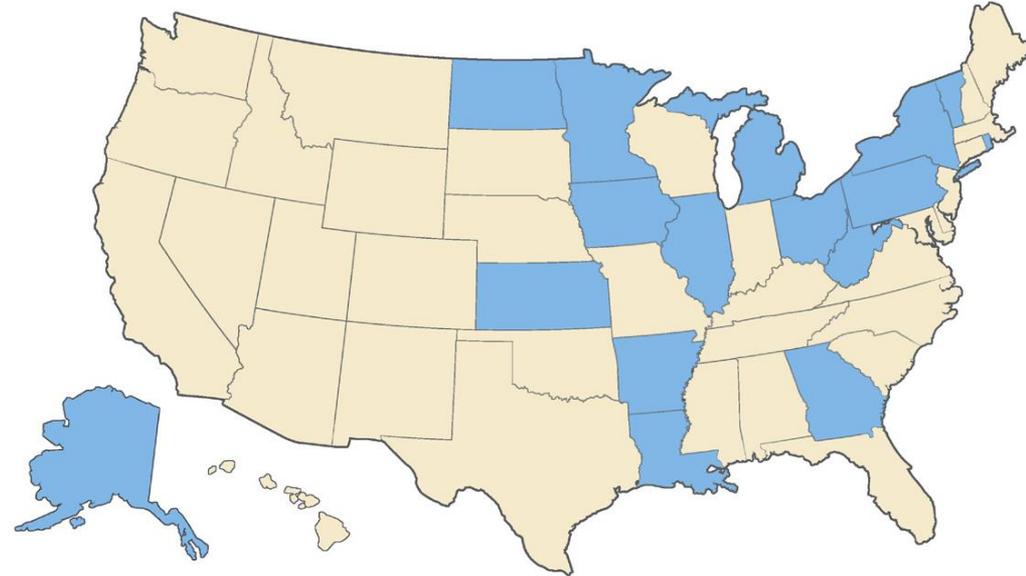
With funding support from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Council of State Governments Justice Center convened more than 800 criminal justice experts and professionals in Washington, DC on May 13-16, 2014 for a pair of overlapping conferences designed to promote collaboration among federal grantees combatting issues of mental health and recidivism.

**2015 Conference will be held December 14-18**

## SRR Program Purpose

To fund, at the state level, effective strategies for reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety that incorporate the following principles:

1. Focus on the offenders most likely to recidivate
2. Use evidenced-based programs proven to work and that ensure the delivery of high-quality services
3. Deploy supervision policies and practices that balance sanctions and treatment



## SRR Program Phases

### Phase I: Planning and Capacity-Building

Must complete planning phase to be eligible for Phase II



### Phase II: Implementation

Competitive – not all planning grantees will receive implementation awards

## SRR: a four step, data-driven approach

### Exploration: Assess the drivers of recidivism

- Michigan's Department of Corrections chose to target moderate- to high-risk individuals returning to Wayne County, based on data showing that 21 percent of technical parole violators returned to prison from the county.

### Development: Assess the system and identify implementation goals

- The Minnesota Department of Corrections convened working groups to analyze their system and develop consensus-based recommendations to strengthen the use of evidence-based supervision policies and programming in the community.

### Installation: Put in place specific policy, procedure, and practice changes

- The Rhode Island Department of Corrections is implementing evidence-based assessment, programming, case management, and supervision practices throughout the system by rewriting department-wide policies and procedures, training staff, and enhancing data collection capacity.

### Accountability: Evaluate changes and improve continually

- The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction partnered with other state agencies to develop an integrated information-sharing process to ensure all relevant performance measures related to recidivism are tracked and routinely reviewed by key stakeholders.

# REDUCING RECIDIVISM

June 2014

States  
Deliver  
Results

Three-Year Returns to Prison	Release Cohort	Recidivism Rate	Release Cohort	Recidivism Rate	Percentage-Point Change	Percent Change
Colorado	2007	52.0%	2010	49.0%	-3.0%	-5.8%
Connecticut	2007	43.9%	2010	40.0%	-3.9%	-8.9%
Georgia	2007	28.9%	2010	26.0%	-2.9%	-10.0%
North Carolina <sup>i</sup>	2006	35.8%	2010	28.9%	-6.9%	-19.3%
Pennsylvania	2007	43.9%	2010	40.8%	-3.1%	-7.1%
Rhode Island <sup>ii</sup>	2004	54.0%	2010	48.9%	-5.1%	-9.4%
South Carolina	2007	33.5%	2010	27.5%	-6.0%	-17.9%
Wisconsin	2007	56.2%	2010	51.1%	-5.1%	-9.1%

Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2014

## Corrections Administrators Recognize SRR Impact



*“Unlike grants that support programming for a small subset of the population, the SRR program can empower corrections administrators to impact recidivism statewide through sustainable policy and procedural changes.”*

A.T. Wall, Director of Rhode Island Department of Corrections



*“The SRR program helped Kansas continue to build a statewide recidivism reduction system, with strong emphasis on fidelity, data and evaluation and quality assurance.”*

Ray Roberts, Secretary of Kansas Department of Corrections



*“Following an intensive and collaborative planning and evaluation process, this grant brings resources to bear that will improve collaboration with various stakeholders across Iowa, advance evidence-based practices, and enhance staff training. This project is designed to be self-sustaining, resulting in long-term recidivism reduction well beyond the project end date.”*

John Baldwin, Director (Ret.) of Iowa Department of Corrections

## Additional Resources for States

- **Correctional Education TA**
- **Department of Education Pell Experiment**
- **Health Coverage TA**
- **Risk Assessment Clearinghouse**
- **Restrictive Housing TA**
- **Swift, Certain and Fair Resource Center**

# SwiftCertainFair

Resource Center  HOPE

- BJA and Pepperdine University have launched the Swift Certain Fair (SCF) Resource Center
- Drawing on recent findings in crime control, the Center supports state, local, territorial, and tribal jurisdictions and agencies in implementing swift, certain, and fair responses (SCF/HOPE) in community corrections.
- The SCF Center provides free training and technical assistance and evaluation services to eligible programs.
- Currently, the center works with jurisdictions and agencies in more than 28 states and an Indian nation.
- <http://scfcenter.org/index.html>

# Thank You!

**Denise E. O'Donnell**

**Director**

[denise.odonnell@usdoj.gov](mailto:denise.odonnell@usdoj.gov)